

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

071450Z Mar 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000330

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/PI, EUR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/07/2015

TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [KMPI](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON NOVEMBER FORUM FOR THE FUTURE MEETING

REF: MANAMA 300

Classified by Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Foreign Minister/Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa stressed to the Ambassador March 7 that it was important that participants at the November 2005 Forum for the Future (FfF) meeting to be held in Bahrain be in a position to highlight what they have accomplished in realizing the vision for reform in the region that was announced at the G-8 Sea Island Summit in June 2004. Concrete results were needed. In a meeting covering several topics (septels), Shaikh Mohammed said that he told British Foreign Secretary Straw, during a meeting on the margins of the March 1 London conference on assistance to the Palestinians, that Bahrain wants to coordinate closely with the UK on the FfF to ensure that participants focus on moving the reform agenda ahead, not just talk. He noted that he also raised these points with Minister of State Baroness Symons.

2. (C) The Foreign Minister emphasized that Bahrain, for its part, wants to be able to show meaningful progress in the establishment of the Entrepreneurship Center. Most important is that the Center be up and running before the November FfF conference. The Ambassador agreed, saying that a delegation from NEA/PI and the Beyster Institute had visited Bahrain just one week earlier and had addressed many of the GOB's concerns related to funding (reftel). A Beyster representative would spend extended periods in Bahrain prior to taking up permanent residence in June 2005. He noted that NEA/PI Director Romanowski would visit Bahrain March 8-9 and would meet with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs/Information Minister Abdul Ghaffar. She agrees that the Center is very important and is prepared to discuss it with Abdul Ghaffar. Shaikh Mohammed said that the Center could be a catalyst for promoting economic growth and employment.

MONROE